

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The apparatus comprises a box shaped body and a clamping member, movably supported between first and second operative positions to lock and respectively 5 release a work piece. A linear detecting device generates a set of control signals for a control unit, during the movement between the operative positions of the clamping arm. The detecting device comprises a first and a second sensor and indexing means in the 10 form of a comb-shaped member having spaced apart teeth to sequentially activate the sensors and provide the set of control signals during the movement of the clamping member.